

Minutes
Human Services Commission
Thursday, May 29, 2003
5:00 P.M.
Via Linda Senior Center
10440 E. Via Linda
Scottsdale, AZ 85258

Present: Chairwoman Fausel, Vice-Chair Bachmann, Commissioners Broshar, Coudroglou and Resnick

Absent: Commissioners Bilsens and Bitenc

Staff Present: Connie James, Mark Bethel, Jan Cameron, Vicki French, Phil Hershkowitz, Diane Kallal
Valerie Kime Trujillo, Paul Ludwick and Mary Kay Rieke

CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Fausel called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MAY 8, 2003 MEETING

Commissioner Resnick moved for approval of the May 8, 2003 meeting minutes; Commissioner Coudroglou seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

PROPOSED DIVERSION FEE INCREASE

Vicki French, Human Services Manager – Youth and Family Services, provided information on a proposed fee increase for diversion services.

Commissioner Resnick asked where all the workshops take place. Ms. French said that, except for the Drug Awareness Workshop conducted by the Scottsdale Prevention Institute, all workshops take place at the Youth and Family Services Office.

Commissioner Coudroglou asked who pays the diversion fee. Ms. French said that the teens are encouraged to pay, as a responsibility, but if they can't pay the fee, it is waived.

Commissioner Resnick asked if the fee covers the entire time the teens are in the Diversion Program and Ms. French said, yes – adding that staff also provides support to teens after they have finished the program.

Commissioner Broshar asked what percent of teens come from the courts. Ms. French said that 100% of the teens in the Diversion Program are referred through the Juvenile Courts, 10% from Phoenix and the rest from Scottsdale.

Commissioner Resnick moved the increase the diversion fees and Commissioner Coudroglou seconded, the motion carried unanimously.

Chairwoman Fausel indicated that in her experience with the Juvenile Courts through the Ready to Learn Program, she discovered that many of the teens in the system have above average IQs, and that often teens drop out of school or get into trouble because challenged. She said that the Maricopa County Community Colleges offer credit classes for students who haven't completed high school. She suggested staff research that avenue for teens as well.

REVIEW OF HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION MISSION/GOALS

Paul Ludwick, Human Services Manager, provided an overview and update on the Human Services 5-year plan, the section relative to mission and goals.

Chairwoman Fausel stated that this is the time to work with staff and think more collaboratively regarding East Valley arrangements to combine budgets/services e.g., looking at sustainability and avoiding duplication of efforts, as well as sun setting, or the review of services that may no longer fulfill the needs of Scottsdale residents.

Commissioner Coudroglou asked, in term of priorities, if Human Services is addressing all the programs, are we trying to develop programs and creating opportunities for development of programs. She added that Human Services does prevention programs, but they can still be problem oriented and she is looking for more positive/pro-active programs that Human Services is supporting.

Chairwoman Fausel answered Commissioner Coudroglou, stating that we have the opportunity to be more focused and positive with things like community education by using the vehicles available in the community such as newsletters or City Cable 11.

Mr. Ludwick added that although needs are tantamount, there may be prevention or the opportunity to provide support earlier on to citizens, thus avoiding a major crisis later.

Ms. James indicated that one of the most positive things that commission has done this year is to approve the Ready to Learn Resolution, which is not only proactive, but also critical for children.

Commissioner Broshar asked what Mr. Ludwick would like the commission to do at this point. Mr. Ludwick said that this is the very beginning of the process, and the commission's input will be most needed when reviewing the results from the East Valley Needs Assessment in the fall.

Commissioner Bachmann discussed the needs assessment survey and indicated that although there are some specific questions, there are also some that are vague and he would like to see more specificity, such as more outcomes and measurable goals.

Chairwoman Fausel said that it is important to continue to foster relationships with other boards and commissions. Ms. James said that the staff has discussed having a joint retreat with the Housing Board in September because that is when we are getting ready for the proposal process, and so it would be good to meet with them to discuss the objectives relative to housing.

Chairwoman Fausel said we should also think about the recreational/social piece of the city, such as the arts center and Parks, Recreation and Facilities, as there is the potential for interfacing there. Ms. James added that this can go along with Commissioner Bachmann's suggestion of more specificity and that anything that tracks the trends of the city would be an enhancement, especially for the budget process. She added that the key is for commission to give any ideas they have about items that don't fit or suggestions to work on/develop, so that when they do reconvene in the fall staff will have the research completed.

Commissioner Bachmann indicated that he would like to know more about the budding problem of depression/suicide within the teen community, and why are teens not reporting it. Ms. James suggested that the commissioners take a tour to get more familiar with the agencies we fund, such as Teen Lifeline, which is a hotline for troubled teens.

Valerie Kime Trujillo, Resource Development Specialist, indicated that the faith community is looking for a project, and although they haven't directly discussed teen depression, issues facing teens and seniors have been the topic of meetings.

Commissioner Resnick added that the senior centers provide the information regarding depression and suicide, as well as many other things that strive to make people aware that they are there to help.

Ms. French added that one of her staff attended a community forum on teen depression and that she would provide commission with the information about the outcome.

Commissioner Resnick suggested that the Senior Spotlight, while talking about the good things that the senior centers do, should also discuss the uncomfortable issues that happen such as depression, loss of a child or spouse, etc., so that the public is aware that we can help.

Mr. Ludwick said that commission could contact him during the summer at 480-312-2646 or at his email: pludwick@ScottsdaleAZ.gov with any questions or suggestions for the update.

2004/2005 FUNDING CYCLE FOR CDBG/HOME/SCOTTSDALE CARES/GENERAL FUNDS

Mark Bethel, Community Assistance Manager, provided information on the upcoming 04/05 CDBG/HOME/Scottsdale Cares/General Fund Contracts funding cycle. Mr. Bethel also updated the commission on the prior years funding, reviewed a timeline for the upcoming year and the applications with commission for any changes or suggestions.

Chairwoman Fausel questioned why the level of funding was not maintained for the Youth and Family category. Mr. Bethel said that the major reason is that Parents Anonymous did not apply for funds as they had in the past. Another reason is that there were some agencies where it was difficult to measure whether their services were serving teens in Scottsdale or in Phoenix, and that is why the funding level has changed.

Commissioner Broshar asked if working with the Housing Board during the funding process worked well. Mr. Bethel said yes and added it would be really beneficial for the Housing Board and the Human Services Commission to meet and decide what they want to see in next years funding process.

Commissioner Resnick asked if we obtained more dollars due to the census. Mr. Bethel said yes, they received a \$257,000 increase in the allocation. He added that HUD may be changing their allocation formula and variables to include per capita income, and he will keep the commission informed if that change happens.

Commissioner Broshar asked about the recent article on the City Council's approval of the funding and that the approval was in the papers and how did that happen. Ms. Kime Trujillo stated that Communication and Public Affairs sent a press release to the papers. Commissioner Broshar asked if staff anticipates an increase in Scottsdale Cares funds next year. Ms. Kime Trujillo said yes, she anticipates an increase. Commissioner Broshar asked about corporate responses and Ms. Kime Trujillo said she is working on that and also discussed General Dynamics and their donation of a \$1,000 per month for 12 months – setting an example for other businesses, and will be approaching them to see if they will continue another year.

Commissioner Resnick asked if General Dynamics was the only corporate sponsor. Ms. Kime Trujillo, said yes, and only for one year, but they are hoping they will continue and that other businesses will follow suit.

Mr. Bethel discussed the applications for the 03/04 funding process and that Scottsdale Cares and General Fund agencies that receive funds will receive half of the amount in July and the other half in January 2004, pending an update of their performance. He also said that they are finalizing the scopes of work for the 03/04 funding allocations and that they are expecting to get all the contracts back in early June.

Chairwoman Fausel voiced her concern over agencies failing to identify funding from other sources. Mr. Bethel said that staff has the ability, through their audited financial statements and the schedule of the

revenue, to know all the agencies' sources of revenue. He added that if there are specific questions, they are addressed with the agency before their presentation.

Commissioner Resnick indicated that the commission can ask about additional revenue sources at the presentation - he also asked that staff impress upon agencies that their presentations are very important in the funding process. Mr. Bethel said they would emphasize that at the agency orientation.

Diane Kallal, Senior Contracts Specialist, indicated that one problem is that agencies are presenting to the Commission before they receive confirmation of funding from other sources. Thus, often their only concrete financial information is from the previous year.

COMMISSION PRESENTATION SUGGESTIONS FOR 03/04

Connie James, Human Services Director, discussed with commission their ideas, preferences, and interests for presentations for next year's agenda.

Commissioner Bachmann indicated he would like to see a presentation on depression and how it affects all age groups from teens to seniors.

Chairwoman Fausel said she would like to see a presentation on family support services from state agencies and how they might, or do, collaborate with cities and non-profit agencies to provide services. Commissioner Coudroglou concurred wanting to know the relationship between the state and the city in terms of addressing human services needs, what they are seeing and what their limitations are.

Commissioner Bachmann requested a presentation on domestic abuse issues, how they are increasing every year, as well as senior abuse issues.

Chairwoman Fausel suggested that businesses share their corporate philosophy about how they support the community and human services in general.

Ms. James also echoed Mr. Bethel's suggestion of having a dual meeting with the Housing Board on housing issues. She said she would discuss the commission's suggestions with staff and send a draft to the commissioners during the summer.

COMMISSIONER SITE VISITS

Connie James discussed with commission site visits for the 2003-2004 Human Services Commission year.

STAFF AND COMMISSION UPDATES

Connie James discussed with commission the budget and what the council has done to recommend that we raise fees for the classes at both senior centers and Paiute 10%.

Commissioner Bachmann asked about the 10% and what it was from. Ms. James asked Jan Cameron, Human Services Manager – Via Linda Senior Center to explain. Ms. Cameron said that the 10% is from direct costs and that Leisure Education runs on the intention of receiving 100% of the direct costs back. So, if an aerobics instructor makes \$25 per hour, they calculate exactly how many participants are necessary in the class to hold it and recover all the costs. With the council's recommendation, we now have to recover 110% of the direct costs, which translates to raising fees. Ms. Cameron added that there is still a scholarship program in place for citizens that cannot afford any of the fees associated with the classes. Ms. James also said that in the Civic Center and Via Linda Senior Centers and Paiute budgets, there are line items specifically for instructors.

Mark Bethel discussed the federal legislation authorizing HUD's Housing Assistance to Needy Families (HANF) proposal, which was introduced in both the House and Senate the first week in May. The bills, H.R. 1841 and S. 947, would convert the successful Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program into a state-administered block grant beginning in FY 2005. He said that this change raises quite a bit of concern for local housing agencies because block granting means the federal government will level off the funds and over time the funds would be eroded by inflation. In fact, NAHRO (National Association of Housing Redevelopment Officials) did a study of the effects of HANF would have in Arizona. They found that there would be a 16% shortfall in funding, which represents eliminating 3,700 families from the Section 8 program and a loss in Scottsdale of \$750,000 over a 5-year period - affecting 100 families. Mr. Bethel indicated that the bills (1841 and 947) are going through congress now and suggested that the commission write to their congressperson to voice their concerns.

Commissioner Broshar asked what preventative measures have been taken. Mr. Bethel indicated that the Arizona Housing Authority Director's Association (AHADA) has written to representatives and contacted the Governors Office, because it will be up to the governor to administer the program or defer it to the local housing agencies. Ms. James added that Community Assistance staff does a great job relative to the housing program and for the people involved in the program. She added that there is a concern because often when the state receives blocks of money from the federal government, they often shift the monies to other items to balance the state budget, and then it does not go where it is supposed to go. In addition, she said that when HUD housing goes up for sale, CAO has been able to apply for more vouchers and asked Mr. Bethel if that option will remain should these bills pass. Mr. Bethel said no, it would be up to the state to make that determination. He also said that there would be a new requirement of a minimum rent payment of \$50 per month, as opposed to the current requirement of \$0. He said that new requirement would really cause a hardship for many seniors.

Commissioner Broshar asked if there are any options to subsidize those seniors. Mr. Bethel said no, that would be a federal program. Ms. James said that if the requirement happens, seniors would probably forgo other things, such as eating, prescription and air conditioning, in order to pay their rent. Mr. Bethel said he would email the letter he sent to the Governor's Office to the commission.

Ms. James, on behalf of the staff, thanked the commission for all of the hours they have committed to the commission – they are much appreciated.

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Chairwoman Fausel made an open call to the public for comments/questions/announcements or other business. There were no replies.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to be brought before the commission, Chairwoman Fausel asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Broshar moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Resnick seconded. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Beth Bossert, Recording Secretary.

Meets established criteria.

Connie James
Director, Human Services